GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:49
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
COMBATING FLUOROSIS
Kripalani Shri Srichand;Narhire Smt. Kalpana Ramesh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidence of fluorosis is increasing in various States in the country including Maharashtra and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported so far, State-wise;

(c) the causes for the spread of this disease;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check the disease?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 49 FOR 26TH JULY, 2006

Based on the UNICEF Report of 1999 on fluorine content of drinking water in the country, fluorosis is a problem in 19 states, which are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. It is estimated that population actually affected by fluorosis is 25 million and 66 million people are at risk of fluorosis due to fluoride content in drinking water. The data regarding number of cases of fluorosis, State-wise is not centrally maintained.

As per water quality survey, State Governments, as on March, 2005, have reported 29,070 habitations affected by excess fluoride in drinking water in rural areas. Out of these, 2748 and 6992 habitations are from Maharashtra and Rajasthan, respectively.

Fluorosis is combated by provision of safe drinking water. Provision of safe drinking water is a State subject. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister`s Gramodya Yojana (PMGY) - Rural Drinking Water for tackling quality related problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water supply. Department of Drinking Water Supply is involved in collecting data on fluorosis endemicity in the states. Along with the Department of Drinking Water Supply, UNICEF has supplied ion-meters to different states for estimation of fluoride in drinking water. National Institute of Communicable Diseases is providing training to Public Health Engineers and Medical professionals from various States/Union Territories to generate awareness about fluorosis and check the spread of fluorosis in the country.